

**Remarks**

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-45 are pending and at issue in the application, claims 38-45 having been added by this amendment.

In general, the applicant's disclosure teaches an item tracking system which may have numerous gates associated with a tracking station and may accommodate any number of tracking stations. Each such tracking station may, for example, be used for tracking items of a particular type. In accordance with the applicant's disclosure, an item to be tracked is provided with an identifier, and, when the item approaches one of the gates, the gate obtains from the identifier two pieces of information: (1) an item-identification of the item; and (2) a tracking-station-identification of a tracking station associated with the item. The item-identification of the item is then communicated to the particular tracking station identified by the tracking-station-identification.

Claim 1, and claims 2-18 dependent thereon, specify a method of tracking an item comprising providing the item with an identifier for specifying an item-identification of the item and a tracking-station-identification of a tracking station related to the item; obtaining from the identifier of the item, via a gate having a gate-identification, the item-identification of the item and the tracking-station-identification; and communicating to the tracking station identified by the tracking-station-identification the item-identification of the item and the gate-identification of the gate.

Claim 19, and claims 20-35 dependent thereon, specify a system for tracking an item comprising a tracking station associated with the item; an identifier for specifying an item-identification of the item and a tracking-station-identification of the tracking station associated with the item; and a gate coupled with the tracking station for obtaining the item-identification of

the item **and** the tracking-station-identification of the tracking station associated with the item and communicating the obtained item-identification **and** a gate-identification of the gate **to the tracking station identified by the tracking-station-identification.**

Claim 36 specifies a system for tracking a plurality of items, each having a unique item-identification and being associated with one of a plurality of tracking stations, the system comprising an identifier for each item for specifying an item-identification of that item **and** a tracking-station-identification of the tracking station associated with the item; and a plurality of gates for obtaining the item-identification **and** the tracking-station-identification from each approaching item and communicating the obtained item-identification **and** a gate-identification of the gate **to the tracking station identified by the tracking-station-identification.**

Claim 37 specifies a method of tracking a plurality of items, each having a unique item-identification and being associated with one of a plurality of tracking stations, the method comprising providing for each item an identifier for specifying the item-identification of that item **and** a tracking-station-identification of the tracking station associated with that item; providing a plurality of geographically distributed gates, each having a unique gate-identification; obtaining, at each gate approached by one of the items, the item-identification of that item **and** the tracking-station-identification from the identifier of that item; and communicating each obtained item-identification **and** the gate-identification of the gate approached by that item **to the tracking station identified by the tracking-station-identification.**

This amendment adds claims 38-41 directed to an identifier which, for example, may be used in connection with the applicant's disclosed tracking system and claims 42-45 directed to a gate which also may be used in connection with such a tracking system.

Specifically, claim 38, and claims 39-41 dependent thereon, specify an identifier for use in tracking an item with an item tracking system, the identifier comprising an item-identification uniquely associated with a particular item **and** a tracking-station-identification uniquely associated with a tracking station related to the particular item. The recited identifier also comprises a transmitter adapted for communicating the item-identification **and** the tracking-station-identification from the identifier **to a gate coupled with the tracking station related to the particular item.**

Claim 42, and claims 43-45 dependent thereon, specify a gate for use in an item tracking system capable of tracking a plurality of items, each item having an identifier, the gate comprising a gate-identification uniquely associated with the gate; a detector for obtaining from the identifier of one of the plurality of items an item-identification of the item **and** a tracking-station-identification of a tracking station related to the item; and a transmitter adapted for communicating the obtained item-identification **and** the gate-identification uniquely associated with the gate **to the tracking station identified by the tracking-station-identification.**

Claims 38-45 define identifiers and gates as may be used in the systems and methods of claims 1-37 and are fully supported by the applicant's disclosure as originally filed. Thus, no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claims 1-22, 24, and 26-37 stand rejected as anticipated by Anthonyson U.S. Patent No. Re 37,822, and claims 23 and 25 stand rejected as obvious over Anthonyson in view of Hall U.S. Patent No. 6,340,935.

The applicant hereby respectfully traverses these rejections of claims 1-37 (and any similar rejections of claims 38-45 added by this Amendment).

Anthonyson fails to disclose or suggest obtaining from an identifier both an

1 { item-identification of an item **and** a tracking-station-identification of a tracking station related to  
2 { the item. Consequently Anthonyson necessarily also fails to disclose or suggest communicating  
an item-identification and a gate-identification **to a tracking station identified by the tracking-  
station-identification obtained from the identifier** (inasmuch as no tracking-station-  
identification is even obtained from an identifier in the system of Anthonyson). To the contrary,  
the automated vehicle parking system of Anthonyson acquires from a vehicle only a vehicle  
identification number. There is no disclosure or suggestion of also acquiring a tracking-station-  
identification to which the vehicle identification number may be sent, nor even disclosure or  
suggestion of any motivation for doing so. Indeed, Anthonyson explicitly states that “all data  
regarding a user will be transmitted to the central facilities computer 10.” *See*, Anthonyson,  
column 4, lines 50-52. Thus, there simply is no disclosure or suggestion of transmitting the data  
to a location (*e.g.*, a tracking station) determined on the basis of information obtained from an  
identifier of a tracked item. In other words, irrespective of which vehicle is involved,  
Anthonyson’s satellite parking facilities 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 send data about that  
vehicle, when detected, only to a single, predetermined centralized location, namely the central  
facility computer 10.

The Examiner’s citation of column 5, lines 13-29 and column 7, lines 11-17 of  
Anthonyson does not support the rejection of the applicant’s present claims. For example, at  
column 5, Anthonyson teaches that an identifying signal is sent from a vehicle to a sensor 132  
which relays the signal to the lane controller computer 120—a single and predetermined  
destination—which passes the signal on to the host computer 112—again a single and  
predetermined destination. There is no selection of where to send the signal based on any  
tracking-station-identification received from the vehicle and, indeed, no tracking-station-

identification is even received from the vehicle. To the extent the sensor 132 is considered a “gate,” it does not obtain the item-identification of an item **and** the tracking-station-identification of a tracking station as stated by the Examiner. *See*, lines 13-29. Moreover, at column 7, lines 11-17, Anthonyson teaches that “the tag *will typically not contain any information that would associate it with a particular parking facility*” (emphasis added). For at least these reasons, the specific passages of Anthonyson cited by the Examiner not only fail to anticipate, but actually teach away from, the applicant’s present claims.

Therefore, Anthonyson not only fails to disclose or suggest the method of claims 1-18 and 37, or the system of claims 19-36, but it also fails to render those claims obvious.

Anthonyson likewise fails to disclose or suggest an identifier comprising an item-identification uniquely associated with a particular item and a tracking-station-identification uniquely associated with a tracking station related to the particular item as recited by added claims 38-41, and further fails to disclose or suggest a gate comprising a detector for obtaining from an identifier an item-identification of an item and a tracking-station-identification of a tracking station related to the item and a transmitter adapted for communicating the obtained item-identification and a gate-identification uniquely associated with the gate to the tracking station identified by the tracking-station-identification as recited by added claims 42-45.

Hall U.S. Patent No. 6,340,935 is cited only for its teaching of IP (Internet Protocol) addresses as recited by dependent claims 23 and 25 (as well as by dependent claims 5 and 7 and by added dependent claims 39, 40, 43, and 44). However, these claims patentably define over the cited prior art for the same reasons as the underlying independent claims as discussed above. In addition, Hall also fails to disclose or suggest obtaining an item-identification and a tracking-station-identification from an identifier and thus also fails to anticipate or render obvious, alone

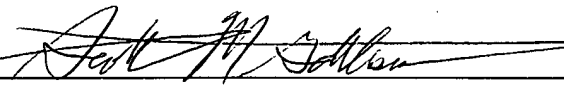
or in combination with Anthonyson, any of claims presently at issue. Moreover, while the Examiner's statement that Internet Protocol (IP) addressing is conventional in connection with computers is correct, there is no disclosure or suggestion in the cited prior art of the use of IP addresses for a tracking system for tracking general items (*e.g.*, parcels, automobiles, livestock, fruit and other agricultural products, people, credit cards, personal belongings, library materials, season passes, commuter passes, *etc.*) as taught by the applicant's present disclosure (*see*, page 7, line 21 – page 8, line 11).

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application with claims 1-45.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN

By:   
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Scott M. Gettleson  
Registration No. 38,158  
Attorney for Applicant

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525 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600  
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3693  
(312) 902-5200  
(312) 902-1061 (Fax)